

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims and add new claims 55 to 59 as follows:

1.-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) A purified antibody or functional fragment thereof, comprising a light chain (V_L) variable region sequence and a heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence:

~~wherein the light chain (V_L) variable region sequence comprises an amino acid sequence at least 75% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, and~~ wherein the heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence comprises an amino acid sequence at least 80% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID:3, wherein said antibody or functional fragment thereof binds to at least one of low density lipoproteins (LDL) and oxidized LDL (oxLDL).

28. (Previously Presented) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said antibody or functional fragment thereof is capable of binding at least one of LDL cholesterol and oxidized LDL cholesterol (oxLDL cholesterol).

29. (Previously Presented) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said low density lipoproteins (LDL) or said oxidized LDL (oxLDL) occurring in human and other animal bodies have complementary carbohydrate structures.

30. (Previously Presented) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said antibody or functional fragment thereof is a functional fragment of said antibody.

31. (Previously Presented) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said functional fragment is selected from the group consisting of V_{H_2} , F_V , Fab, Fab' and $F(ab')_2$.

32. (Previously Presented) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to claim 27, wherein said antibody or functional fragment thereof includes an amino acid sequence of a variable region of the light chain (V_L) at least 80% identical to SEQ ID NO:1, or an amino acid sequence of a variable region of the heavy chain (V_H) at least 80%

identical to SEQ ID NO:3, or is at least 80% identical to both of said amino acid sequences of said variable regions of said light chain (V_L) and said heavy chain (V_H).

33. (Cancel)

34. (Previously Presented) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 31, wherein said functional fragment contains an amino acid fragment of the light chain (V_L) variable region or the heavy chain (V_H) variable region amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3.

35. (Previously Presented) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 31, wherein the light chain (V_L) variable region sequence or the heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence of said functional fragment contains an amino acid sequence fragment at least 80% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3.

36. (Previously Presented) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said light chain (V_L) variable region sequence of the antibody or functional fragment thereof is at least 85% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

37. (Previously Presented) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence of the antibody or functional fragment thereof is at least 85% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

38. (Previously Presented) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said light chain (V_L) variable region sequence of the antibody or functional fragment thereof contains a sequence at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO:1.

39. (Previously Presented) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence of the antibody or functional fragment thereof contains a sequence at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO:3.

40. (Previously Presented) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said antibody or functional fragment thereof is a monoclonal antibody.

41. (Previously Presented) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said antibody or functional fragment thereof is produced by a hybridoma.

42. (Previously Presented) A purified antibody or functional fragment thereof comprising a light chain (V_L) variable region sequence and a heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence, wherein the light chain (V_L) or heavy chain variable region sequences comprise SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3, respectively.

43. (Currently Amended) A purified antibody or functional fragment thereof, wherein the ~~light chain (V_L) variable region sequence~~ or the heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence comprises a complementary-determining region (CDR), selected from [~~Ser-Gly-Asp-Lys-Leu-Gly-Asp-Lys-Tyr-Ala-Cys (CDR1), amino acids 23-33 of SEQ ID NO:1, or Gln-Asp-Ser-Lys-Arg-Pro-Ser (CDR2) amino acids 49-55 of SEQ ID NO:1, or Gln-Ala-Trp-Asp-Ser-Ser-Ile-Val-Val (CDR3) amino acids 88-96 of SEQ ID NO:1~~], or [Ser-Tyr-Ala-Met-His (CDR1) amino acids 31-35 of SEQ ID NO:3, or Val-Ile-Ser-Tyr-Asp-Gly-Ser-Asn-Lys-Tyr-Tyr-Ala-Asp-Ser-Val-Lys-Gly (CDR2) amino acids 50-66 of SEQ ID NO:3, or Asp-Arg-Leu-Ala-Val-Ala-Gly-Arg-Pro-Phe-Asp-Tyr (CDR3) amino acids 99-110 of SEQ ID NO:3.].

44.-47. (Cancelled)

48. (Previously Presented) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said light chain (V_L) variable region sequence of the antibody or functional fragment contains a sequence at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:1.

49. (Previously Presented) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence of the antibody or functional fragment contains a sequence at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:3.

50. (Previously Presented) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said light chain (V_L) variable region sequence of the antibody or functional fragment contains a sequence at least 98% identical to SEQ ID NO:1.

51. (Previously Presented) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence of the antibody or functional fragment contains a sequence at least 98% identical to SEQ ID NO:3.

52. (Currently Amended) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 43, wherein the light chain (V_L) variable region sequence or the heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence comprises Ser-Gly-Asp-Lys-Leu-Gly-Asp-Lys-Tyr-Ala-Cys (CDR1), amino acids 23-33 of SEQ ID NO:1, Gln-Asp-Ser-Lys-Arg-Pro-Ser (CDR2), amino acids 49-55 of SEQ ID NO:1, [[and]] or Gln-Ala-Trp-Asp-Ser-Ser-Ile-Val-Val (CDR3), amino acids 88-96 of SEQ ID NO:1, or Ser-Tyr-Ala-Met-His (CDR1), amino acids 31-35 of SEQ ID NO:3, Val-Ile-Ser-Tyr-Asp-Gly-Ser-Asn-Lys-Tyr-Tyr-Ala-Asp-Ser-Val-Lys-Gly (CDR2), amino acids 50-66 of SEQ ID NO:3, and Asp-Arg-Leu-Ala-Val-Ala-Gly-Arg-Pro-Phe-Asp-Tyr (CDR3), amino acids 99-110 of SEQ ID NO:3.

53. (Previously Presented) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 43, wherein the light chain (V_L) variable region sequence and the heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence comprises Ser-Gly-Asp-Lys-Leu-Gly-Asp-Lys-Tyr-Ala-Cys (CDR1), amino acids 23-33 of SEQ ID NO:1, Gln-Asp-Ser-Lys-Arg-Pro-Ser (CDR2), amino acids 49-55 of SEQ ID NO:1, and Gln-Ala-Trp-Asp-Ser-Ser-Ile-Val-Val (CDR3), amino acids 88-96 of SEQ ID NO:1, and Ser-Tyr-Ala-Met-His (CDR1), amino acids 31-35 of SEQ ID NO:3, Val-Ile-Ser-Tyr-Asp-Gly-Ser-Asn-Lys-Tyr-Tyr-Ala-Asp-Ser-Val-Lys-Gly (CDR2), amino acids 50-66 of SEQ ID NO:3, and Asp-Arg-Leu-Ala-Val-Ala-Gly-Arg-Pro-Phe-Asp-Tyr (CDR3), amino acids 99-110 of SEQ ID NO:3.

54. (Previously Presented) A purified antibody or functional fragment thereof, wherein the heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence comprises Ser-Tyr-Ala-Met-His (CDR1), amino acids 31-35 of SEQ ID NO:3, Val-Ile-Ser-Tyr-Asp-Gly-Ser-Asn-Lys-Tyr-Tyr-Ala-Asp-Ser-Val-Lys-Gly (CDR2), amino acids 50-66 of SEQ ID NO:3, and Asp-Arg-Leu-Ala-Val-Ala-Gly-Arg-Pro-Phe-Asp-Tyr (CDR3), amino acids 99-110 of SEQ ID NO:3.

55. (New) A purified polypeptide, comprising a heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence at least 80% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID:3, wherein said polypeptide binds to at least one of low density lipoproteins (LDL) and oxidized LDL (oxLDL).

56. (New) The purified polypeptide of claim 55, wherein the heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence is at least 85% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID:3, and wherein said polypeptide binds to at least one of low density lipoproteins (LDL) and oxidized LDL (oxLDL).

57. (New) The purified polypeptide of claim 55, wherein the heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence is at least 90% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID:3, and wherein said polypeptide binds to at least one of low density lipoproteins (LDL) and oxidized LDL (oxLDL).

58. The purified polypeptide of claim 55, wherein the heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence is at least 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID:3, and wherein said polypeptide binds to at least one of low density lipoproteins (LDL) and oxidized LDL (oxLDL).

59. (New) The purified polypeptide of claim 55, wherein the heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence comprises [Ser-Tyr-Ala-Met-His (CDR1) amino acids 31-35 of SEQ ID NO:3, or Val-Ile-Ser-Tyr-Asp-Gly-Ser-Asn-Lys-Tyr-Tyr-Ala-Asp-Ser-Val-Lys-Gly (CDR2) amino acids 50-66 of SEQ ID NO:3, or Asp-Arg-Leu-Ala-Val-Ala-Gly-Arg-Pro-Phe-Asp-Tyr (CDR3) amino acids 99-110 of SEQ ID NO:3.